



NORTHEASTERN STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Constitution

Last Amended by the 95th Senate in 2020-2021

PREAMBLE

We, the graduate and undergraduate students of Northeastern State University, Tahlequah campus, in order to establish formal representation in decision making, to encourage the development of our students, to foster strong leadership, both on campus, in the community and in our region, to cement the duties and responsibilities of students in relation to the university and its general welfare, do hereby ordain and establish this constitution.

ARTICLE I
Name, Membership & Purpose

Section 1. The name of the organization will be the Northeastern Student Government Association, or NSGA

Section 2. NSGA should strive to properly represent the diverse interests, viewpoints, backgrounds, and experiences of the students at Northeastern State University

2.1 No person shall, on the grounds of race, creed, color, national origin, religion, age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, status as veteran of the military, or such other factors that cannot be considered lawfully to the extent specified by federal or state law, be excluded from participation in the organization, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination by it under any program or activity within the organization.

Section 3. The purpose of the Northeastern Student Government Association will be:

3.1 The Northeastern Student Government Association serves as a liaison between a diverse student body and the administration and faculty of NSU. Through our advocacy, we empower and educate students to create change and we strive to expand a culture of learning, discovery, and diversity.

ARTICLE II Executive Branch

Section 1. The executive branch of the Northeastern Student Government Association will consist of the President, the Vice President, and the Chief of Staff

1.1. The President and Vice President will be elected on a joint ticket during the spring semester, with the exact date(s) confirmed by the Senate

1.1.1 In the event that either running mate is determined ineligible or unwilling to run before elections open, the eligible candidate will have until one (1) day prior to the start of the election to find a suitable replacement.

1.2 The Chief of Staff will be appointed by the President receiving input from the Vice President

1.3 All candidates for an executive position must:

1.3.1 Be enrolled as a full-time student at Northeastern State University and, if elected, maintain full-time enrollment status

1.3.2 Taking classes primarily housed at the Tahlequah campus

1.3.3 Have and maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher

1.3.4 Be in good standing with the University

Section 2. The President of the Northeastern Student Government Association will:

- 2.1 Hold office for a term of one (1) year beginning on the day following the end of the spring semester during which they were elected.
- 2.2 Serve as the chief executive of the students of Northeastern State University.
- 2.3 Act as the official host and representative of the student body.
- 2.4 Relay the concerns of the students to the Senate, the university administration, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the Regional University System of Oklahoma.
- 2.5 Deliver reports to the Senate.
- 2.6 Have the power to sign Senate legislation or veto such legislation.
- 2.7 Appoint and, if necessary, remove the chairpersons of the Senate committees from within the Senate membership, with the approval of the Senate.
- 2.8 Have the ability to create and disband committees of the Senate.
- 2.9 Preside over meetings of the cabinet and coordinate the performance of duties by the cabinet members.
- 2.10 Have the power to nominate student representatives to all student/faculty boards, councils, and committees with the advice of the Senate Body.
- 2.11 Approve the annual Northeastern Student Government Association budget and a monthly account of all expenditures, which will be prepared by the Chief of Staff and approved by the Chair of the Fiscal Affairs Committee.
- 2.12 Receive a compensation not to be increased or diminished during the president's term of office, unless required by law.
- 2.13 Not possess the power of the vote in the Senate under any circumstance.

Section 3. The Vice-President of the Northeastern Student Government Association will:

- 3.1 Hold office for a term of one (1) year beginning on the day following the end of the spring semester during which they were elected.
- 3.2 Serve as President of the Senate, who may chair meetings of the Senate Body at their discretion and be allowed vote in the event of a tied vote.
- 3.3 Assign all submitted legislation to the proper committee
- 3.4 Prepare and distribute the agenda no later than twenty-four (24) hours before every Senate meeting.
- 3.5 Assist the President in the performance of their duties
- 3.6 Serve as a member of the cabinet
- 3.7 Have the power to call Senate into emergency sessions upon proper notification of all senators
- 3.8 Receive a compensation not to be increased or diminished during the Vice-President's term of office, unless required by law
- 3.9 Have the ability to fill vacancies in the Senate by appointment
 - 3.9.1 These appointments will be received and be subject to approval by the Judicial Committee, who will then present the appointments to the Senate for confirmation, accompanied by a recommendation to accept or not accept

Section 4. The Chief of Staff will:

- 4.1 Call the roll and record the minutes of all cabinet and Senate meetings and, in conjunction with The President of the Senate, count and record the official senate vote.
- 4.2 Not be allowed to vote
- 4.3 Be a member of the cabinet
- 4.4 Be the Chief Financial Officer of NSGA
- 4.5 Keep accurate records of all financial transactions and handle any paperwork necessary for the collection, disbursement, and/or transfer of funds
- 4.6 Present a complete financial report to Student Senate at the third meeting of the semester

- 4.7 Receive a compensation not to be increased or diminished during the Chief of Staff's term of office, unless determined by law
- 4.8 Generally be responsible for the maintenance of records, taking of official minutes for all meetings of the Senate Body, Cabinet and other official meetings of NSGA as deemed necessary by the President, and make minutes and records available in accordance with University Regulations, State, and Federal Law

Section 5. Line of Succession

- 5.1 To ensure continuous and orderly leadership for the Northeastern Student Government Association, the following order and rule for succession will be followed.
 - 5.1.1 If the President is unable to perform his or her duties upon formal declaration either permanently or temporarily, resignation, medical incapacitation or death the Vice-President shall assume the office of the President.
 - 5.1.2 If the Vice-President is unable to perform his or her duties, nominations will be made from the floor of the senate and the full senate will vote on the nominations. The nominee must have two thirds (2/3) of the total vote.
 - 5.1.3 If no nominee receives two thirds (2/3) of the first ballot, the nominees who placed first and second in the balloting will be placed on a ballot for a second vote. The nominee receiving the most votes will be sworn in as Vice-President.

Section 6. Removal from Office

- 6.1 Any member of the Executive Branch will be removed from office by impeachment after receiving either:
 - 6.1.1 A three-quarters (3/4) Vote of No Confidence of the total Senate membership at the end of general order
 - 6.1.2 A Vote of No Confidence that will initiated by petitions bearing the signatures of ten percent (10%) of the student body, which must be certified by the Judicial Committee. Upon certification, the Senate will administer the Vote of No Confidence to the student body within three (3) weeks of the certification of the petitions. A successful Vote of No Confidence requires a simple majority of voting voters.

ARTICLE III Cabinet

- Section 1.** The cabinet of the Northeastern Student Government Association will:

- 1.1 Be composed of the President, Vice-President, Chief of Staff, and any other member seen fit to serve on cabinet at the discretion of the President. The number of individuals on cabinet shall be no less than six (6) members
- 1.2 The duties of the cabinet are to coordinate the activities and operations of student government, to assist the President in implementing legislation enacted by the Senate, and to communicate the progress of each committee.

ARTICLE IV Student Senate

Section 1. Composition of the Student Senate

- 1.1 The students of Northeastern State University will be represented by senators from their respective academic schools or colleges, including at-large members of the university, and their respective campuses.
- 1.2 The recognized academic areas are College of Business and Technology, College of Liberal Arts, College of Science and Health Professions, College of Education, College of Optometry, and Graduate Studies.
- 1.3 The recognized campuses are Tahlequah, Broken Arrow, and Muskogee. Campus membership is determined by which campus a majority of the students enrolled classes are located.
- 1.4 At-large membership is any full-time, degree seeking student enrolled in the university regardless of academic school or college to represent the student body as a whole.
- 1.5 The membership of the Student Senate will not exceed thirty-six (36).
 - 1.4.1 This membership will be as follows:
 - 1.4.1.1 College of Business and Technology (5)
 - 1.4.1.2 College of Liberal Arts (5)
 - 1.4.1.3 College of Science and Health Professions (5)
 - 1.4.1.4 College of Education (5)
 - 1.4.1.5 College of Optometry and Graduate Studies (5)
 - 1.4.1.6 Freshman Senators (5)
 - 1.4.1.7 At-Large Members (5)
 - 1.4.1.8 Broken Arrow Senator (1)

Section 2. Qualifications of a Senator:

- 2.1 At the time of election or appointment and throughout the term of office, a senator must be a degree-seeking student
- 2.2 Senators will have and maintain a grade point average of at least 2.5, with the exception of first semester freshman, who have not yet established a grade point average.
- 2.3 Senators must meet all other requirements set forth by the NSGA Constitution and Bylaws
- 2.4 Applicants may be excepted from full-time requirements of Article IV, Section 1.3 and Article IV, Section 2.1 by obtaining written permission from the Advisor with the signature of the presiding president.

Section 3. Elections

- 3.1 All candidates for election to the office of senator must submit an affidavit provided by the Northeastern Student Government Association to the Chief of Staff.
- 3.2 NSGA will provide for an election in the spring semester to determine the senator representatives for the following academic year.
- 3.3 An Election Commission of no less than three (3) individuals will be selected by the President and confirmed by the Senate. This commission will be charged with the execution of the election in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of NSGA and under the supervision of the Senate Judicial Committee.

Section 4. Term of Office

- 4.1 The term of office of the Senators will be for a term of one (1) year beginning on the day following the end of the spring semester during which they were elected and terminating the same date of the following year
- 4.2 Newly elected Senators must attend a retreat for training and team building in preparation for the upcoming academic year, led by the executive branch.

Section 5. Committee Structure

- 5.1 The committee structure of the Student Senate shall be in accordance with the structure set forth in the bylaws of the Student Senate

Section 6. Removal from Office

- 6.1 Any senator may be removed from office by impeachment that may be initiated by a two-thirds (2/3) vote at a regular meeting in the end of general order of the Senate or by a petition of ten percent (10%) of that Senator's constituents

- 6.2 A three-fourths (3/4) vote of the Senate at the next regular meeting in the end of general order will result in the removal of the impeached
- 6.3 Any violation of Article IV, Section 2 will result in automatic removal of a Senator
- 6.4 Just cause for removal will be:
 - 6.4.1 Violation of or disregard for any part of the constitution of the Northeastern Student Government Association
 - 6.4.2 Failure to comply fully with the Rules of Procedure for Student Senate
 - 6.4.3 Failure to comply fully with the Student Code of Conduct

Section 7. Ethics and Integrity

- 7.1 All Senators shall report all student organizations they are in to the Chief of Staff within (30) days of confirmation to Senate. The Chief of Staff will keep an updated list of all student organizations Senators are in. The list will be available to see upon a Senators request to the Chief of Staff.
- 7.2 Senators will be barred from voting, amending, and introducing legislation pertinent to all organizations they participate as an executive officer in or within thirty (30) days of leaving the organization and/or stepping down from a leadership position which must be reported to the Chief of Staff within (30) days.
 - 7.2.1 “Executive officer” is defined as but not limited to President, Vice-president, Treasurer, and any other officer role.
- 7.3 Senators must recuse themselves from the decision making of any committee and/or other bodies of NSGA if it involves punitive action against a Senator if the faculty advisor of NSGA deems it necessary. If found necessary, a suitable replacement will be found to take place in the decision making. All prior obligations as mentioned in but not limited to section 7.3 apply for the replacement.
- 7.4 All bills and resolutions are highly encouraged to contain a research component involving the student body. This research, should it be included, shall be located in one of the “whereas” sections of the legislation.

7.4.1 "Research" is defined as but not limited to opinion polls, student surveys, and/or information from relevant campus offices.

- 7.5 Senators found violating Section 7.1 or 7.2 will be referred to the appropriate NSGA committee and/or other bodies for automatic removal from office. The Chief of Staff will provide the Senator organization participation document to confirm membership status of said organizations. Automatic removal outlined under section 7.5 can be overridden with a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority of the Senate and confirmation from the President of NSGA.

ARTICLE V

Initiative Referendum

- Section 1.** The students of Northeastern State University may initiate a referendum by submitting petition of ten percent (10%) of the student body

ARTICLE V

Amendments

- Section 1.** Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority vote of the Student Senate or by initiation of the student body as provided in Article IV.